

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-6 (Cancelled)

7.(New) A medicine feeder, comprising:  
a cassette for housing medicines in array;  
biasing member for biasing the medicines in the cassette toward one end side; and  
a discharge member disposed on one end portion of the cassette so as to be rotatable  
between a reception position and an extraction position, wherein  
the discharge member has: a holding recess portion for holding only one medicine  
biased by the biasing member upon rotation to the reception position and for maintaining a  
holding state of the held medicine so that the medicine can be extracted from outside upon  
rotation to the extraction position; and a support face formed on an opposite side of the  
holding recess portion so as to be able to support a next medicine when the discharge  
member rotates to the extraction position.

8.(New) The medicine feeder as defined in claim 7, further comprising: medicine  
detection member for detecting whether or not a medicine is present in the holding recess  
portion when the discharge member is positioned at the extraction position; and control  
device for allowing driving of the discharge member based on prescription data and a  
detection signal in the medicine detection member.

9.(New) The medicine feeder as defined in claim 8, further comprising lock member  
for disabling the discharge member from rotating, wherein the control device controls the  
lock member so as to lock the discharge member at the reception position when discharge  
of a prescribed quantity of medicines based on prescription data is completed.

10.(New) The medicine feeder as defined in claim 7, wherein the discharge member has a notch to facilitate holding of the medicine on opposite walls constituting the holding recess portion.

11.(New) A medicine feeder, comprising:

    a cassette for housing medicines in array;  
    biasing member for biasing the medicines in the cassette toward one end side;  
    a discharge member disposed on one end portion of the cassette so as to be rotatable between a reception position and an extraction position; and  
    medicine quantity detection member for detecting a quantity of the medicines in the cassette; wherein  
        the medicine quantity detection member having: a sensor for detecting a biased position by the biasing member in an initial state where medicines are not housed in the cassette; and an encoder for detecting change in the biased position of medicines by the biasing member caused by housing the medicines in the cassettes from the initial state detected by the sensor.

12.(New) A medicine feeder, comprising:

    a cassette for housing medicines in array;  
    biasing member for biasing the medicines in the cassette toward one end side;  
    and a discharge member disposed on one end portion of the cassette for holding a medicine in a holding recess portion and discharging the medicine one by one through rotating movement, wherein  
        the discharge member comprises a rotor, and an outer circumferential face of the rotor for supporting a next medicine is formed so as not to change a position of the next medicine through rotating movement.

13.(New) A medicine feeder, comprising:

    a cassette for housing medicines in array;

    biasing member for biasing the medicines in the cassette toward one end side;

    and a discharge member disposed on one end portion of the cassette for holding a medicine in a holding recess portion and discharging the medicine one by one through rotating movement, wherein

        the discharge member comprises a rotor, and

        the control device automatically returns the rotor to a standby position if a specified time is passed while the rotor is positioned at a discharge position.

14.(New) A medicine feeder, comprising:

    a cassette for housing medicines in array;

    biasing member for biasing the medicines in the cassette toward one end side;

    and a discharge member disposed on one end portion of the cassette for holding a medicine in a holding recess portion and discharging the medicine one by one through rotating movement, wherein

        the cassette is disposed so that housed medicines are arrayed in horizontal direction so as to be discharged one by one in sequence from one end side by the discharge member.

15.(New) A medicine feeder, comprising:

    a cassette for housing medicines in array;

    biasing member for biasing the medicines in the cassette toward one end side;

    and a discharge member disposed on one end portion of the cassette for holding a medicine in a holding recess portion and discharging the medicine one by one through rotating movement, wherein

        the cassette is disposed so that housed medicines are arrayed in vertical direction so as to be discharged one by one in sequence from an upper end by the discharge member.

16.(New) A medicine feeder, comprising:

    a cassette for housing medicines in array;

    biasing member for biasing the medicines in the cassette toward one end side;

    and a discharge member disposed on one end portion of the cassette for holding a medicine in a holding recess portion and discharging the medicine one by one through rotating movement, wherein

    the cassette is disposed so that vials containing medicines with an upper aperture closed by a lid are housed in a state of being arrayed in horizontal direction in a standing position.

17.(New) A medicine feeder, comprising:

    a cassette for housing medicines in array;

    biasing member for biasing the medicines in the cassette toward one end side;

    and a discharge member disposed on one end portion of the cassette for holding a medicine in a holding recess portion and discharging the medicine one by one through rotating movement, wherein

    the discharge member comprises a rotor, and the cassette is structured to be mounted on and dismounted from each housing portion of a stock shelf and has a lock member for preventing the rotor from rotating when the cassette is dismounted from the housing portion.

18.(New) The medicine feeder as defined in claim 8, wherein the discharge member has a notch to facilitate holding of the medicine on opposite walls constituting the holding recess portion.

19.(New) The medicine feeder as defined in claim 9, wherein the discharge member has a notch to facilitate holding of the medicine on opposite walls constituting the holding recess portion.